

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02690 071717Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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S E C R E T ATHENS 2690

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR CY TU

SUBJ: CYPRUS: DISCUSSION WITH CARAMANLIS

1. DURING A PRIVATE CONVERSATION I HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS EARLIER TODAY ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, AT ONE POINT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK HIM HOW HE FELT ABOUT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS.

2. CARAMANLIS SAID HE WAS "NOT OPTIMISTIC", THAT HE HAD FAILED TO SEE THUS FAR ONE SIGN THAT THE TURKS WERE INTERESTED IN HIS EARLIER THOUGHTS ABOUT A REASONABLE BIZONAL SETTLEMENT. I SAID THAT IT WAS PERHAPS STILL TOO SOON TO EXPECT ANY CONSIDERED REACTION FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT FORMING AND ESTABLISHING ITS PROGRAM IN ANKARA. CARAMANLIS SAID THAT MAYBE I WAS RIGHT BUT IT HAD TO BE RECOGNIZED THAT DEMIREL WAS FORMING A "WEAKLY BASED" GOVERNMENT AND ONE THAT CONTAINED SOME EXTREME NATIONALISTIC ELEMENTS WHICH COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS.

3. I ASKED HIM WHAT NEWS THERE WAS OR WHAT FURTHER REACTION THERE HAD BEEN TO CLERIDES STATEMENTS EARLY LAST WEEK IN NICOSIA ABOUT A BIZONAL ARRANGEMENT AND OTHER ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT ON THE ISLAND. CARAMANLIS DID NOT REPLY DIRECTLY BUT SIMPLY SHOOK HIS HEAD AND MADE A

SECRET

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02690 071717Z

GESTURE OF FUTILITY WITH HIS HANDS. (COMMENT: LATER,

HIS DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, MOLYVIATIS, TOLD ME THAT CARAMANLIS WAS MOST DISCOURAGED ABOUT THE CYPRUS SITUATION, INCLUDING THE BEHAVIOR OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. MOLYVIATIS SAID, "YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW HE FEELS", WITH THE TURKS OCCUPYING ALMOST HALF OF THE ISLAND AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS "ARE FIGHTING" AMONG THEMSELVES. MOLYVIATIS SAID THAT CLERIDES ONCE AGAIN HAS THREATENED TO RESIGN AS THE NEGOTIATOR FOR THE GREEK SIDE AND THAT CARAMANLIS WAS MAKING A STRONG EFFORT TO KEEP HIM IN LINE.)
KUBISCH

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